



Jefferson Elementary School

District: Jefferson C-123 School District

Enrollment: 86

Grade Range: PreK-6

Building Principal: Miss Jane F. Walter

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Jefferson Elementary at a Glance...

Jefferson Elementary is a small, but dynamic rural school in northwest Missouri that has the privilege of preparing fewer than 100 eager students for a bright future. Students from all grade levels, pre-kindergarten through twelve, attend classes in a single building. Located in Conception Junction, the Jefferson C-123 School District serves students from the surrounding communities of Conception and Clyde, as well as dozens of small farms. Area businesses include MFA, the Printery House at Conception Abbey, an altar bread department and nursing home at Benedictine Convent, and a car and farm equipment repair shop. Many of the district's parents also work at factories just minutes away in Maryville.

Despite its small size, Jefferson Elementary has earned a reputation of excellence. Each year, the principal uses a parachute as a tent to demonstrate the partnership of students, parents, and teachers in creating positive and productive educational experiences. If one person falls and becomes a "broken post," the others will eventually break under the weight. Excellent learning at Jefferson Elementary is a collaborative effort. The school district is accredited, earning "distinction in performance" from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Jefferson Elementary's mission: The Jefferson C-123 School District is dedicated to understanding the past and building for the future of our students. In accomplishing this endeavor, our mission is to develop students with a healthy physical, emotional and intellectual balance that will prepare them to become lifelong learners and productive, enlightened members of a diverse society.

Student-Centered Learning

In the past several years, Jefferson Elementary's classrooms have evolved from traditional and teacherdirected to active and student-directed. An inquiry-based instructional program places teachers in the role of facilitator and encourages students to be responsible for their own learning. The Jefferson Elementary curriculum is framed by the Show-Me Standards, grade level expectations, and MAP test results, and incorporates basic skills in all academic disciplines. Instructional activities ensure that students learn to work cooperatively, use technology, and think creatively. Teachers are active learners themselves, participating in monthly study groups to stay abreast of current instructional research and focus on the district's current goal of improving student's literacy skills.

Small class size, cooperative learning, flexible grouping, re-teaching, Title I program, and before and after-school tutoring help teachers effectively meet the needs of all students. Supplemental programs such as Write Night, a Library Sleepover, Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl, and Academic Team promote the enjoyment of learning.

A technology-rich environment at Jefferson Elementary further enhances the curriculum and encourages students to be actively involved in their own learning. Third through sixth grades incorporate the eMINTS (enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies) program with one computer for every two students at their desks. SmartBoards are located at the front of the room, and students have access to digital cameras and scanners. Some classrooms allow students to type their work into Palm handhelds, providing computer accessibility to all students.

“IN THEIR OWN WORDS...”

- **“The primary occupations in the Jefferson C-123 community are farm and manufacturing related. Community members expect students to acquire skills and knowledge to prepare them for occupations in these areas, but also to compete in the job market in an ever-changing world.”**
- **“The Jefferson Elementary culture is one in which all staff, along with parents and community members, are committed to creating an exceptional, positive learning environment.”**
- **“The leadership in the Jefferson C-123 school district begins with a community that has established very high expectations for the school and coupled these high expectations with a commitment to support the district in any way necessary to help achieve the established goals and objectives.”**

Learning Beyond Academics

In addition to encouraging academic excellence, Jefferson Elementary also strives to emphasize student growth, citizenship and lifelong learning. Learning at Jefferson begins long before kindergarten with a very successful Parents as First Teachers program. A program for three- and four-year-olds brings children and parents together for evening activities. Once they enter Jefferson Elementary, all students have many opportunities to participate in activities that will help them develop their interests and become involved in their community. All fifth grade students are trained as peer mediators to resolve conflicts among students appropriately. The elementary counselor provides weekly class sessions for all grade levels to promote positive character traits, promote a safe and drug-free lifestyle, and provide information about good study habits and career possibilities. Students are recognized individually for displaying exemplary character traits, and classes receive an Eagle Pride trophy for exemplary behavior. A community service component of Jefferson Elementary's curriculum encourages students to give back to the community that so generously supports the school. Students visit local nursing homes and serve in fundraising projects in the community. Sixth grade students participate in a community project, such as making improvements to the community's ball field or to the youths' Teen Center.

“GOLD STAR” PRACTICES

- **Fifth and sixth grade students communicate weekly with an e-pal from the community, Conception Abbey, or Benedictine Convent.**
- **Community members and students from Conception Seminary College serve as mentors for students.**
- **Third through sixth grade students contribute to the weekly newsletter by taking turns acting as reporters for their grade levels.**
- **Research-based instructional strategies, such as helping students connect new knowledge with prior knowledge or experience.**

Through hours of dedication by students, faculty, support staff, school board, parents and community members, Jefferson Elementary strives to be a model of excellence in education.